

5 A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AN INSTANT MESSENGER HOME  
AUTOMATION SYSTEM INTERFACE USING A HOME ROUTER

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A method for interfacing with a home automation system using a router.

The router receives control signals from an instant messenger application via a communications network. The communications network can be the Internet. The router then transmits the control signal to at least one appliance to control the appliance in accordance with the control signal. A reply to the control signal can be received from the appliance and the reply can be transmitted to the instant messenger application regarding a status of the appliance. The control signals can be transmitted among the appliances in accordance with a standardized home automation interface. The router can be configured to interface with a plurality of appliances via a home automation system interface unit. The router can also be configured to log onto an instant messenger server and function as an instant messenger client to receive control signals from a user.

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